United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ In Presidential statement tonight, Security Council strongly condemns reports of forced evacuation of Sarajevo and impediment of distribution of humanitarian assistance to its inhabitants; warns of further measures against those who commit or support such actions.

+ Security Council concludes tonight there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for modification of the measures of sanctions imposed against Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in resolution 748 (1992); in joint letter, France, United Kingdom and United States warn Libya of their determination to intensify efforts, in cooperation with Secretary-General, to make United Nations sanctions against that country more effective.

+ Secretary-General "deeply concerned" at destruction of Babri mosque in Ayodhya and subsequent escalation of violence in India and neighbouring countries.

+ Renewed fighting in Kabul resulting in loss of life, destruction of property and serious damage to United Nations compound viewed by Secretary-General with great concern.

+ Secretary-General, responding to reports of worsening humanitarian situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan, authorizes urgent programme of humanitarian assistance for region; emergency appeal issued.

+ Next year will be "crucial" in fight for human rights and a test for international response to massive violations of human rights, says Secretary-General in message for Human Rights Day 1992, tomorrow; International Year of Indigenous Populations to be launched tomorrow.

+ International Fund for Agricultural Development announces plans for development project for El Salvador aimed at helping former government soldiers and guerrillas alike.

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Press Release DH/1286
9 December 1992

In a Presidential Statement issued at a meeting of the Security Council tonight, the President of the Council, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan (India), said that Council's members were alarmed by the most recent reports that Serb militia in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina had renewed their offensive there, in particular against the city of Sarajevo, resulting in further loss of life and material damage as well as endangering the security of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and international relief workers, thus threatening international peace and security.

The Council was particularly alarmed by reports that the Serb militia were forcing the inhabitants of the Sarajevo to evacuate the city. It warned that actions aimed at impeding the distribution of humanitarian assistance and at forcing the inhabitants to leave the city, including the possibility of ethnic cleansing, would have grave consequences for the overall situation in that country.

The Council strongly condemned those attacks as violations of its relevant resolutions and of previous commitments, in particular with regard to the cessation of hostilities, the ban on military flights in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the safety of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and the restoration of power and water supplies.

The Council demanded the immediate cessation of those attacks and of all actions aimed at impeding the distribution of humanitarian assistance and at forcing the inhabitants of Sarajevo to leave the city. If such attacks continued, the Council would consider, as soon as possible, further measures against those who commit or support them, to ensure the security of UNPROFOR and of international relief workers, the ability of UNPROFOR to fulfil its mandate and compliance with the Council's relevant resolutions.

The meeting of the Security Council was held at the request of the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, who, in a letter to the Council President, dated 7 December, said the request was being submitted "in view of the dramatic increase in aggression against Sarajevo and Bihac and cities in central Bosnia". Sarajevo had endured days of intensified shelling and the closing of its airport, and a western suburb of the city of Otes had fallen.
Document S/24916

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In a note issued tonight at Headquarters, the President of the Security Council, on behalf of its members, stated that, following informal consultations today, he had concluded that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for modification of the measures of sanctions imposed by Council's resolution 748 (1992) against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The Council consultations were held pursuant to a decision by its members, contained in the same resolution, to review every 120 days or sooner, should the situation so require, the measures imposed in resolution 748 against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

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In a separate development, France, the United Kingdom and the United States have accused Libya of continuing to defy international law with regard to terrorism, and warned that they were determined to intensify their efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, to make United Nations sanctions against that country more effective.

Marking the first anniversary on 27 November of the tripartite declaration issued a year ago following the investigation into the bombings of flights Pan Am 103 and UTA 772, the three countries reiterated their demand that Libya "promptly, by concrete actions, prove its renunciation of terrorism". Their new declaration strongly reaffirmed their single objective with respect to Libya: complete and unequivocal compliance with the terms of the Security Council resolutions. Justice for the 441 victims of the two flights, and international peace and security, which was threatened by Libya's support of terrorism, required no less, stated the declaration.

Libya's continued failure to fulfil its international obligations would only result in furthering its isolation from the world community, pursued the statement, warning the Libyan Government of the three States resolve on the matter.

The declaration was contained in a letter, dated 7 December, to the Secretary-General from the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States.
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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed "deep concern" at the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya and the subsequent escalation of violence in India and neighbouring countries resulting in the loss of life and destruction of places of worship.

According to a statement issued today at Headquarters, the Secretary-General urged all sides to show restraint so as to avoid further bloodshed. He appealed to Hindus and Muslims to resolve their differences "through dialogue and in a spirit of tolerance and human solidarity, which would foster peaceful coexistence of religious communities".

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In a second announcement today, the Secretary-General said he viewed with great concern the renewed outbreak of fighting in Kabul which has resulted in loss of life, destruction of property and serious damage to the United Nations compound.

The Secretary-General appealed to all Afghan leaders to put an end to these hostilities immediately and resume consultations that would restore the political process. That would allow the uninterrupted flow of emergency supplies to the city at the onset of the harsh winter season, and provide the security necessary for the convening of the Shoora.

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The Secretary-General, responding to reports of the worsening humanitarian situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan and the declaration on Monday of a state of national disaster by the President of Armenia, authorized the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, to coordinate an urgent programme of assistance for the region.

Subsequently, an Immediate Emergency Appeal for Armenia and Azerbaijan was issued yesterday, detailing requirements totalling $10 million in relief supplies and projects envisaged by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Mr. Eliasson emphasized the urgency of the appeal and urged Governments and non-governmental organizations to pledge the funds necessary for immediate delivery of assistance. A spokesman at Headquarters said today that some of the emergency work aimed at assisting the more vulnerable groups among refugees and displaced people had already begun.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian, in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, said that the Azeri blockade on the country had caused a severe energy crisis. Explaining his declaration of a state of national disaster, he said help would be needed for the next 12 months to enable the people of Armenia to survive through the harsh winter months.

"The Government and people of Armenia urgently require sustained, effective humanitarian assistance in order to prevent deaths in the tens of thousands from exposure, hunger and inadequate medical attention," he said.

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The year 1993 will be a "crucial year" in the fight for human rights and a test for international response to massive violations of human rights, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in his message for Human Rights Day 1992, to be observed tomorrow. Another test, he says, lies in the understanding of the relationship between development and human rights.

"Full human dignity means not only freedom from torture, but also freedom from starvation. It means freedom to vote as it means the right to education. It means freedom of belief as it means the right to health. It means the rights to enjoy all rights without discrimination. And true development requires a solid basis of democracy and popular participation", the Secretary-General stated.

A cultural event to launch the International Year of the World's Indigenous People will take place tomorrow at Headquarters featuring indigenous performers. The event is organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) and co-sponsored by a number of United Nations organizations.

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The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) today announced its plans for the first major United Nations development project for El Salvador since the end of the country's civil war. The project, aimed at rebuilding the society and promoting peace, will help former government soldiers and guerrillas alike.

The nearly $40 million project, which will be carried out over six years, will help restore agriculture to Chalantenango province, one of the most war-ravaged areas of El Salvador's 12-year civil war, according to Idriss Jazairy, President of IFAD. "The project could very well serve as a model for the agricultural reconstruction of the entire nation, as well as other war-torn nations."

The project will benefit 10,500 rural families in Chalantenango by establishing credit and bringing modern training and marketing to set up both farms and businesses. The IFAD will help establish farms for 9,000 families, and set up small rural enterprises for an additional 1,500 families. The latter group would consist of the landless, demobilized guerrillas, war-affected families and the war disabled.

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